

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 stands rejected on the basis of Soultanian '092, and independent claim 17 stands rejected under § 103 on the basis of '092 and Wahl '587. Applicants traverse these rejections because Soultanian does not disclose (or suggest) a hair clipper motor in which a moving piece is hinged to a stationary piece by interlocking moving piece laminations with stationary piece laminations, as in the present invention.

The examiner argues that Figs. 2 and 4 of the '092 reference disclose interlocking laminations, but they do not. In Fig. 2 of the '092 reference, a spacing member 48 separates the moving laminations from the stationary laminations, as described in column 3, lines 46-50, reproduced below.

The spacing between stator 10 and armature 12 is maintained by virtue of the attachments to housing member 30 just described and by spacing member 48 located on the opposite side of stator 10 and armature 12 from housing member 30. The spacing member 48 is found in Fig. 2, reproduced below.

The moving and stationary pieces are hingedly secured to each other by the spacing member 48.

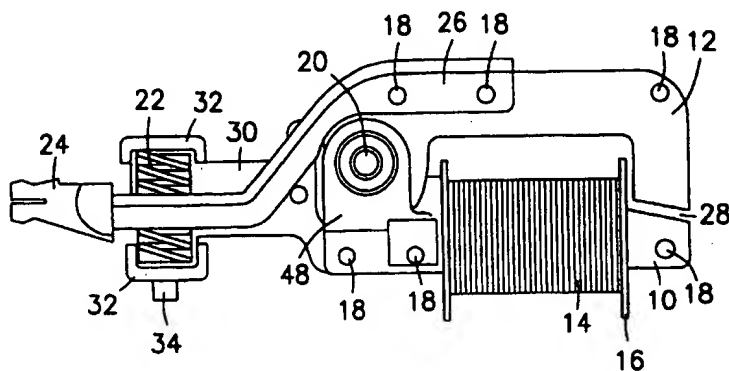


Fig. 2

The stationary and moving laminations of the reference are not interlocked, and in fact are separated from each other. The gap between the laminations can be seen in Fig. 6, reproduced below.

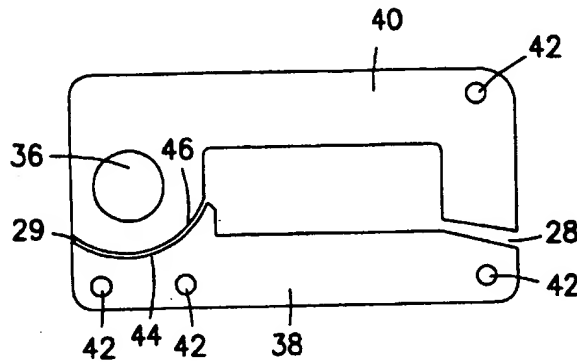


Fig. 6

In that regard, the reference describes the gap as follows.

The close proximity of arcuate pole face 44 stator 10 and arcuate pole face 46 of armature 12 forms arcuate air gap 29 (best seen on Fig. 6) which, in the preferred embodiment, will be between 0.005 and 0.010 inches in width.

In contrast, independent claims 1 and 17 of the present invention recite that the moving piece is hinged to the stationary piece by interlocking the moving and stationary laminations together directly with a spacing member, as in the cited reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of independent claims 1 and 17 is requested. Withdrawal of the remaining rejections of the dependent claims is requested for the same reasons, and additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 

Patrick G. Burns
Registration No. 29,367

February 9, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315
P:\DOCS\2206\64630\414377.DOC